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REMARKS

This responds to the second office action mailed April 13, 2005 in connection with the above identified patent application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 16 - 30 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 24 has been cancelled and claims 16, 22, 23 ,25 and 28 have been amended. In amending independent claim 16 no new matter has been introduced, since it now contains only limitations that were disclosed in the original claims 16 and 24.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 16-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16 was objected to because is not clear the relationship of the thread/tag to the tube. According to the Examiner's suggestion, claim 16 has been amended to specify that the filter paper web is folded over itself in a direction away from the thread/tag placing the thread/tag on the outside of the tube.

Claim 22 was objected to because the limitation "folding" lacked antecedent bases. According to the Examiner's suggestion, claim 22 now dependent on claim 20.

Claim 23 was objected to because the limitation "the layer of adhesive" lacked antecedent bases. Dependent claim 23 now depend on claim 17 in which is introduced "a layer of heat-activated adhesive. . . ."

Claim 25 was objected to because the limitation "the concave section" lacked antecedent bases. Claim 25 has been corrected introducing "a concave section".

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Claim 28 was objected to because the limitation "the layer of adhesive" lacked antecedent bases. Dependent claim 28 now depend on claim 17.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has identified claims 24-27 as defining allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-23 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lohrey (EP1002741).

Claim 16 has been amended to include limitation of "allowable" claim 24. As such, it is noted that Lohrey does not disclose the steps of cutting the filter paper web at a predetermined distance from the pick-up tag to form a slit; and forcing the thread through the slit to form a second loop projecting from the filter paper web on the side opposite that in contact with the thread. This subject matter solves the technical problem of providing a thread of different length maintaining a filter bag of standard dimension. In other words, twirling the thread to form the second loop, it is possible to use a thread of large dimension while maintaining the standard external dimension of the filter bag. Accordingly, amended claim 16 and dependent claims 17-23 and 25-30 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Applicants' counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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